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RM-8626

Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

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Gentlemen,

RM-8626 is presented as a way to return access to certain frequencies to all amateur radio operators and reduce ill-will in the world radio community. It is stated that other landlined based services exist that can duplicate the benefits derived from the permitted bulletin operations of stations such as W1AW. If adopted, the proposal will result in just the opposite while removing unique information resources for hams around the world, dramatically increasing the use of frequency resources for bulletin and training operations, and seriously damaging goodwill and the image abroad of American Hams as considerate members of the world radio community.

This bill is in error, and is self-serving of the interests of its author.

1. The information may be available from a number of sources, but it will be literally weeks separated from the event or announcement. What is not available from these other sources are the opportunities to develop listening and operating skills that are vital to new hams. These opportunities are offered to prepare those who are not yet licensed to operate on these bands and modes.
2. Bulletin content of stations such as W1AW is unique and offered over the radiowaves so that any amateur radio operator, regardless of where they live in the United States or where they might be traveling on the road or to foreign lands, can receive timely information regarding issues and topics related to their service.
3. A computer program, bulletin board, or newsletter can never provide the experience necessary to develop radio communicators nor can the landline based and postal bound resources provide the consistent access necessary.
4. As an added benefit, the amateur radio bulletin resource is always available for the dissemination of emergency or disaster information. People know the frequencies, format, and schedule of the bulletins. It is an emergency communication resource in a constant state of readiness with world-wide monitors who are constantly improving their skills.

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5. Also at issue in the proposal is the use of certain frequencies by amateur radio organizations who transmit bulletin information and communication practice in a number of different modes, single-side-band, radio Teletype, and continuous wave. The fact that these few organizations make this service available nation-wide in an orderly manner using a few frequencies on each band means that the vast majority of hams have needed access to information and relevant practice by which they enhance their skills.

6. The need for these types of transmissions will not go away if this "one-way" operation is prohibited. What can be expected to happen is that each individual community will attempt to fill the void by developing and transmitting "two-way" communications to provide the information and skill development functions. Many of these communities will use the HF bands that are used by present service providers. Like the present organizations, their signals will span the globe. The difference will be the quantity and quality of these efforts.

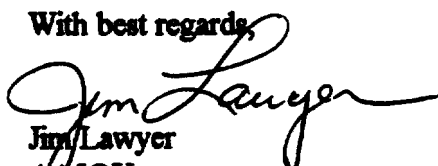
What are we to do then about this situation? Are the bulletins and practice messages transmitted in an orderly manner on a few frequencies the real problem? That hasn't been the case for tens of years for W1AW. In fact, their transmissions have motivated and assisted thousands of hams in developing their skills from novice to extra class and provided thousands of people in the United States with a unique source of timely information.

It is not the few bulletin stations, but rather, a selfish and undisciplined few who are causing the problems. They seek to destroy the enormous positive benefits of this type of service to tens of thousands of hams for the sake of their own vested interests. It is not the bulletins but the jammers, the profane, a few self-centered American Hams, and one or two others seeking to eliminate free services that compete with their pecuniary interests that are causing this rule to be considered.

I encourage you to consider the enormous benefits that the existing rules allow and discard this proposal. There simply is no other source for the benefits received to the service, to our country, and to the world-wide amateur radio community.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued support of a precious American resource, the amateur radio service.

With best regards,


Jim Lawyer
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cc: ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111-1494